

**What is claimed is:**

1           1.     An improved hands-free speakerphone for use with a communications system,  
2     said speakerphone comprising:  
3                 a speaker element;  
4                 a housing for enclosing the speaker element; and  
5                 at least one anti-sealing speaker port formed in the housing to permit sound  
6     generated by the speaker element to be passed therethrough.

1           2.     The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises an outer  
2     surface portion surrounding the at least one speaker port, the outer surface portion possessing  
3     sufficient curvature so as to reduce the risk that the outer surface portion including the at least  
4     one speaker port can be sealed against the ear of a user placing the at least one speaker port  
5     proximate the user's ear.

1           3.     The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a front  
2     portion and a back portion that adjoins along a parting line in a fixed relationship when the  
3     hands-free speakerphone is assembled for use, the at least one speaker port being located  
4     proximate to the parting line.

1           4.     The hands-free speakerphone of claim 3, wherein the at least one speaker port is  
2     formed on an inner surface of the parting line.

1           5.       The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of speaker  
2 ports formed in the housing in a spaced relationship relative to each other.

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1           6.       The hands-free speakerphone of claim 5, wherein the spaced relationship includes  
2 sufficient spatial separation between speaker ports to reduce the risk that the housing can be  
3 sealed against the ear of the user.

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1           7.       The hands-free speakerphone of claim 6, further comprising a parting line formed  
2 along the exterior of the housing, and wherein the at least some of the plurality of speaker ports  
3 are formed proximate to the parting line.

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2           8.       The hands-free speakerphone of claim 7, wherein the housing comprises a first  
3 portion and a second portion and the parting line is formed at the juncture of the first housing  
portion and the second housing portion.

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2           9.       The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, wherein the speaker element is held in a  
3 substantially fixed orientation with respect to the at least one speaker port, the at least one  
4 speaker port being formed in a surface of the housing that is oriented such that the sound  
5 produced by the speaker element must be reflected off at least one interior surface prior to  
reaching the housing surface in which the speaker part is formed.

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1           10.      The hands-free speakerphone of claim 9, further comprising an acoustical element  
2 for redirecting sound generated by the speaker element toward the at least one speaker port.

11. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 10, wherein the acoustic element is integrally formed with the housing.

12. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 10, further comprising a liquid crystal display (LCD), and wherein LCM forms at least part of the acoustical element.

13. A hands-free speakerphone for use in connection with a telephone communications system, the hands-free speaker comprising a housing having a first housing portion and a second housing portion that, when assembled, retain a speaker element in a substantially fixed relationship with respect to the assembled housing, the housing forming at least one speaker port having a position and orientation such that sound produced by the speaker element reaches the at least one speaker port substantially indirectly, the at least one speaker port being formed on a curved surface of the housing, the curved surface of the housing possessing sufficient curvature to avoid a seal being formed between the speakerphone and the ear of a user placing the at least one speaker port proximate to the ear.

14. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 13 further comprising a parting line formed on an exterior surface of the housing, wherein the at least one speaker port is located proximate the parting line.

15. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 14, wherein the parting line is formed along the juncture of the first housing portion and the second housing portion.

- 1           16.    The hands-free speakerphone of claim 13, further comprising a plurality of  
2   speaker ports formed in the housing.

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